Pradesh and Karnataka and for Iron Ore in the States of Bihar and Orissa. NDMC will take up systematic exploration of the minerals after prospecting licences are granted by concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) NMDC will be funding the proposed exploration with its own resources.

Setting up of New T.V. Relay Centres

428. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to enhance the capacity of Porbandar TV relay centre and installation of a new TV relay centre at Keshod, and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Winding Up of B.G.M.L.

429. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to rehabilitate B.G.M.L. at Kolar Gold Fields through joint venture by induction of a private co-promoters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any possibility of winding up the above company under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985;

(d) the number of employees working at B.G.M.L.;

(e) whether the Government have given option of the employees to avail of voluntary retirement scheme; and

(f) if so, the number of employees so far who have taken voluntary retirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The Government have decided to explore the possibility of rehabilitating the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) through the induction of a private co-promoter(s) under joint venture route failing which the Company will be allowed to wind up under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(d) The number of employees working in BGML as on 16th July, 1997 is 5011.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 3696 employees have availed of voluntary retirement up to 16th July, 1997.

Closure of Badarpur Thermal Power Station

430. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Badarpur Thermal Power Station is facing closure threat due to poor supply of coal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid its closure and for uninterrupted supply of power to the city which is already facing acute power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) There is no threat of closure of the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS).

(b) Power supply position of Delhi is regularly monitored by the Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Power. A task force under the Chairmanship of Member (G&O). CEA constituted by the Government reviews the power supply position from time to time and all corrective measures as required are taken for ensuring continuous and adequate power supply to Delhi.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone in Gujarat

431. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in major cities of Gujarat as on February 28, 1997; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Waiting list of major cities of Gujarat as on 28.2.97 is as under :-